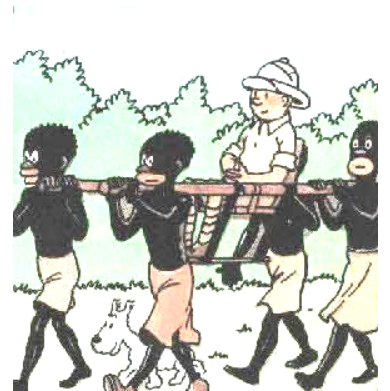


Racism means judging (juger) someone by their race rather than by who they are as an individual. In history racism has led several times to great injustice and cruelty (cruauté). Today many governments recognise (reconnaître) that racism is evil (mal).

All human beings (êtres) look different. But particular groups of human beings (known as races) have certain physical characteristics in common (en commun). People from sunny lands, for instance, tend to be darker-skinned than those from cold climates. When differences of language, religion and customs (us et coutumes) are added, we have separate "ethnic groups".



Racism can occur (se produire) when different ethnic groups live in the same area. They may be afraid or jealous (jaloux) of each other. Sometimes one group thinks itself superior to another. Many 19th century Europeans, for example, thought they were better than Africans.



Racism has scarred (marqué) modern times. European Americans persecuted (persécuter) native Americans (the "Indians") and African Americans. There have been horrible racist massacres in Cambodia, Rwanda and the Balkans. Worst of all was the Nazi massacre of some 6 million Jews in World War II.

A South African law of 1950 said that all citizens (Bürger) had to belong to one of three groups: White, Black or Coloured. Only those registered (enregistrés) as White were allowed to vote (voter) for the government or represent their country at sport.

The United Nations is completely opposed to (racism). Many countries have made it a crime.

Translate:

- Ils ont l'air différent.
- Qu'avons-nous en commun?
- Connais-tu les coutumes de ces pays?
- Ils vivent dans la même région.
- Les blancs persécutèrent les indigènes.
- Il y eu des massacres horribles pendant les guerres mondiales.
-
- Ils vivent dans un climat froid.
- Ils étaient jaloux les uns des autres.
- Avaient-ils le droit de vote ?
- Nous sommes contre le racisme.